President.—There is no motion before the House.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have only to point out that amendments can be made by this Council alone.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—A point of order, Sir. In the face of the assurance that was expressed the next question will be to discuss it at an early meeting.

2. Consideration of the Finance Committee Report.

President.—Resolution No. (2) by Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I withdraw the resolution.

(*Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn.*)

"*This Council recommends to the Government that in view of the shortness of the time at the disposal of the Members of this Council to study the voluminous report of the Special Finance Committee and in view of the extreme importance and complexity of the matters involved therein, any discussion of the report be put off for the present, and the report be considered at a special meeting of this Council convened at an early date.*"

3. Admission of Students to the College.

President.—Resolution No. (3) by Mr. C. J. Mathew.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg leave to move the resolution standing in my name.

"*This Council recommends that the power of admitting students to the University classes of the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, be in future vested in an elected committee of this Council presided over by the Principal of the College*".

Sir, in the British parts, in Mysore, Travancore and elsewhere, as a rule, the admission into the educational institutions is confined to their students alone, and only if there is more space, it is thrown open to students coming from outside. Well, in our College, as it is, there is no such restriction. There is no rule to guide their policy. As a result, our students seeking admission elsewhere find it difficult to obtain admission there, and when they come back, they do not find accommodation here either. So hardship is felt by our students and this should be remedied as early as possible. Now, the entire power of selecting students for admission into the College is at present vested in one particular individual, the Principal of the College. I do not for a moment say that the Principal is incapable of performing this task, but I only wish to bring to the notice of the House that it would be much better if a committee be appointed, so that a few heads may together deliberate over each individual case of admission and decide, giving their full attention to the subject. This principle is found adopted in other

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places. In the Queen Mary's College, Pachayyappa's College Technical Colleges such as the Medical College and the Engineering College, the Arts College, Trivandrum and in other Colleges too we find this system adopted, *i. e.*, they accept the principle that the power of admission should never be vested in one particular individual but it ought to be in the hands of a few who might jointly go into the full details of the question before admission is made in each case. It may be pointed out that in other parts the committee is nominated by the Government. I think it would make little difference whether the committee is nominated by Government or elected by this representative body. I do not cast any sort of reflection on the Principal's attitude but still it has to be said that there are any amount of complaints, whether reasonable or otherwise, cropping up in connection with the admission of students into the College. Many of our Cochin State students do not get admission for some reason or other. To quote but one instance—I do not name all—I may cite the instance of a Chettiar boy. The Chettiar community are a backward class so far as education is concerned, and, therefore, they deserve much encouragement at the hands of the Government. This boy, coming from Chittur, the longest distance possible, was knocking about in the streets of Ernakulam for two weeks. He waited at the door of the Principal day and night for a full fortnight and at last he was refused admission. Perhaps there was no godfather to back him up. There are many other instances too. It is enough to say that there is great discontentment felt by the people of Cochin. They feel that, in the matter of admission, more discretion and more justice should come into operation. My Party has accepted this as a Party question on this ground that in all fairness it should not be left to the whims and fancy of one man to admit students as he likes. This power ought to be vested in a committee nominated or elected. They must be held responsible to see that proper and fair things are done in the case of students seeking admission into our college.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I rise to support it, Sir. I understand in Travancore as well as in British territories a committee is appointed to select students who seek admission to the college. Now there is only one man to be pleased. If a committee is appointed, there will be a multiplicity of members to be pleased, but all the same, when there is a question of complaint, it will be borne by three or four instead of one. At least it has got this quality. There shall be complaint. No committee will stop it, but, as I said, there is this advantage. There is this method of division which will make them bear the burden more lightly than

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the other. This question may be taken up by the Government, to get themselves relieved from this heavy burden. Let a committee be appointed,—that is my request—either by nomination or by election.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Are you suggesting any amendments, Sir?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—He is seconding it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Either nominated or elected, either official or non-official.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I press the motion.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Shall I state the position, Sir, as far as Government is concerned? Well, the Member, who moved the resolution, said that cases of injustice had come to his notice. I think the Member, who seconded, also made a statement to that effect. But so far no complaint has ever reached us.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I never said there was a complaint.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The Member who moved said that there were numerous cases of injustice. So far as the Government is concerned, no complaint has ever reached us. And then, the admission of students is not left arbitrarily in the hands of the Principal. Definite instructions have been issued by the Diwan, by me, and my predecessor, and the method of procedure is this. I shall just explain how these selections are made. (*The Member then read the College Admission Rules*).

That is the procedure followed now. Then it was said here that in the Colleges outside there are committees appointed for the purpose of selecting students for admission. Well, as far as my information goes, there is no committee in Travancore. The Travancore Principals make their own selection. There is a committee in Palghat, there is a committee for the Presidency College, for the Queen Mary's College, and for the professional Colleges of Madras. But none of them are from the elected Members of the Legislative Council.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In almost all the Colleges of British India, Madras Presidency, not only Palghat. Also in Coimbatore and other places and in the Madras Presidency College.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Not in Travancore.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Did you make enquiries about the Arts and Science College? Has it got any committee?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Yes, they have no such committees. And I have made it clear that there is very little scope for the excercise of arbitrary selection as matters stand

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now. If, however, the House thinks that the duty of selection should be entrusted to a committee, provided the Members on the other side give up the principle of an elected committee, Government will accept that.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—One word in support of that motion. From what has been heard from the Member for Education, we know that they have made a set of rules for the purpose of regulating admissions. But, in spite of all these rules, we hear all sorts of complaints.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—No complaint has ever reached the Government.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—It is not that any particular student who sought admission and got disappointed complained to the authorities. You cannot expect him to go and complain to the Diwan or anybody else. He will go and try in some other school. So it is very unlikely in the ordinary course of things that the Director will get complaints regarding these matters. I don't want to cast any blame upon the Government. Government is trying to put safeguards and to conduct things properly. They have made a set of rules, but in spite of all those rules, we hear complaints. In spite of the double-lock system and all possible safeguards we see Treasury money is being misappropriated. Those who break the rules probably take shelter under these "chance cards". We do not know what it is. At any rate, there is a widespread complaint in this matter and that is the reason why it is made a Party question. If the complaint has not reached the authorities, it has certainly gone to the public. So I want the motion to be passed.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—We have accepted.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—May I ask the question hypothetically? Suppose A fails in the F. A. class at Ernakulam, goes to Palghat and studies there. After passing there he wants to join the Ernakulam College.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—He is treated as an outsider.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—There is the fact that he is a Cochinite.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—All the same, he comes from outside, and there is this fact in his favour that he is a Cochinite. But he comes from outside the College.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—B is a boy who is studying in the St. Thomas College. There is another boy who is a Cochinite who is studying in the Victoria College.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That will have to be decided on its merits. One fact is in favour of one. Another fact is in favour of the other.

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Dr. A. G. Menon.—You say that the Government have no objection. Is it an official committee or a non-official committee?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is a committee appointed by the Government.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Whether it will be an official committee or a non-official committee or a mixed committee?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I soppose it would be mixed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to withdraw the resolution on the assurance that a mixed committee would be appointed.

(*The resolution was withdrawn with leave.*)

4. Consideration of the Finance Committee report.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—In the light of the assurance, I withdraw.

(*Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn*)

This Council recommends to the Government that the discussion of the report submitted by the Special Finance Committee be put off for the present, as the Members had not sufficient time to study the same and that the said report be considered at a special meeting of the Council to be convened at an early date."

5. Rural reconstruction in Cochin.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I rise to move a resolution to the effect that "*this Council recommends to the Government the appointment of a committee* (*the members of which will be named by the mover on the fate of the resolution being known*), *for the purpose of framing a comprehensive scheme of rural reconstruction for the villages of Cochin.*" I may, at the outset, state that, without a rural reconstruction scheme, all the labour that we do at the top is wasted. We, the intellectuals, the moneyed, are at the top of the social ladder and the work, that we do, must filter down unto the villages and should have a resting place there. But it would have been immensely better if we had begun from the foundations of village societies, and gone up towards the Legislative Councils. But things in this Country unfortunately take a topsy-turvy turn,and we begin at the top and go to the bottom. We have got no foundation. That we see in our social and political order. It is to remedy this that I have tabled this resolution. I know fully well the importance, the consequences and the advantages of village reconstruction schemes. I do not wish to take much time because we are on the last day and I want to give the others a chance. The condition of agriculture is of the first and prime importance in this land. That

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